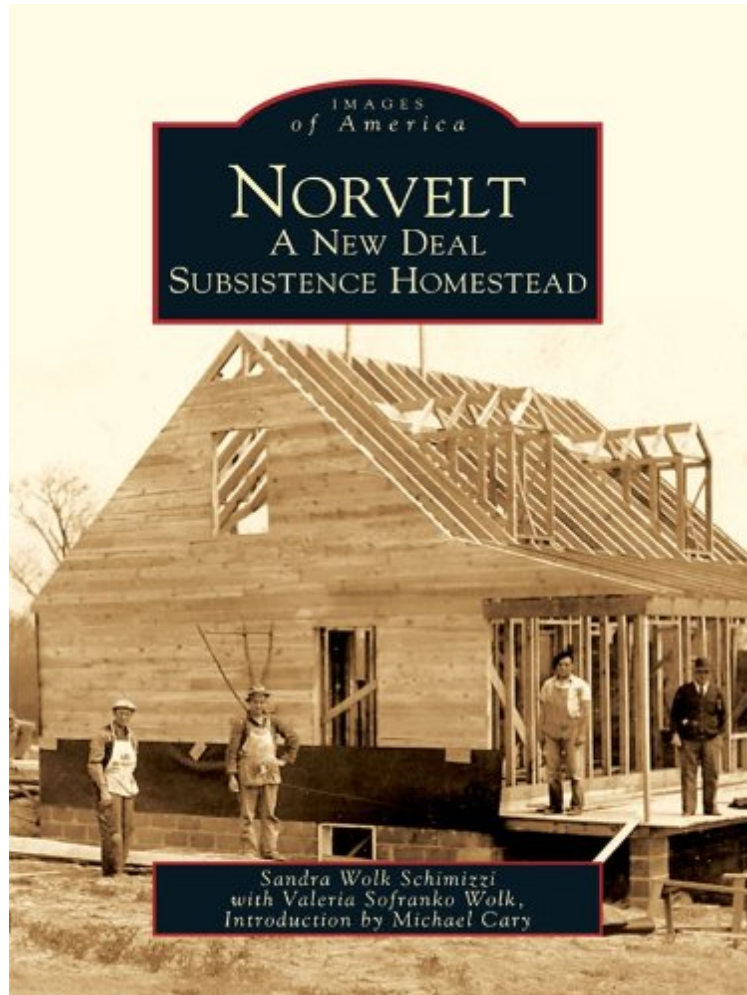


(Mobile book) Norvelt: A New Deal Subsistence Homestead (Images of America)

Norvelt: A New Deal Subsistence Homestead (Images of America)

Sandra Wolk Schimizzi, Valeria Sofranko Wolk
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In 1933, the town of Norvelt became the fourth of 99 planned subsistence homestead communities subsidized by the federal government as part of the National Industrial Recovery Act for dislocated miners and industrial workers. The American Field Service Committee was recruited to implement and build the subsistence project and established a work camp in the summer of 1934. More than 1,850 people applied for 250 lots, and the first 1,200 homesteaders helped build their own homes on a lease-to-purchase agreement. Homes were equipped with a grape arbor, 3.4 acres of land, and chicken coops. Cooperatively, homesteaders established community garden plots and raised livestock, hogs,

and chickens. A format of cultural, political, and religious expression was provided to the residents, and through vintage photographs Norvelt: A New Deal Subsistence Homestead celebrates the remarkable life transformation the homesteaders were able to experience during the town's formative years.

About the Author Sandra Wolk Schimizzi is a rehabilitation counselor who grew up in Norvelt. Valeria Sofranko Wolk moved to Westmoreland Homesteads in 1935 and continues to live in Norvelt. Michael Cary is a professor of history and political science at Seton Hill University in Greensburg. All the authors serve on Norvelt's 75th anniversary commemorative book, history, and education committee.